



## Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Fact Sheet Academic Year 2009-10



Helping Students Pay for College

### Description

The Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship is a federally funded program administered by the State of Michigan, Office of Scholarships and Grants (OSG). It was established to promote student excellence and achievement and to recognize exceptional students who show promise of continued excellence. This merit-based program provides approximately 230 awards per year for up to four years to graduating high school students who have achieved academic excellence. The financial resources of the family are not a criterion for determining eligibility. The federal law requires that awards be geographically distributed.

### Application

Each spring, high school principals nominate one outstanding graduating senior based upon high school academic achievement and the Michigan Merit Exam (MME) score. The principal will use a mathematical formula to combine the grade point average and the MME score. If more than one student ties for the highest score, the principal may nominate each of those students. Nominations can come from Michigan public and private school principals as well as from non-Michigan principals who have a Michigan resident attending their high school. Beginning with the class of 2009 home schooled students are eligible for the scholarship.

Letters are then sent to the selected students. Not all nominated students are selected. Selected students must return a certification form indicating where they will attend college. Failure to return the certification form or failure to enroll at an eligible institution during the 2009-10 academic year, will result in forfeiture of the award (see "Program Limits"). **Students are responsible for notifying the OSG of a change in their college choice.**

### Program Limits

The current maximum award is \$1,500. The Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship and all other financial aid for which the scholar qualifies cannot exceed the cost of attendance. The award is for the first year of study at any college or university in the United States and is renewable for up to three additional years of undergraduate study. The student is expected to use their award within four consecutive years. OSG may suspend the scholarship if the student does not meet the renewal criteria. \*The scholarship may be reinstated if the student meets the renewal criteria within twelve months of suspension. OSG may also allow a postponement or interruption of enrollment. Future awards are subject to available and approved funding.

### Eligibility

- Enroll full time\* at an approved Michigan postsecondary or out-of-state institution that participates in Federal Title IV student aid programs.
- Possess a high school diploma or GED certificate.
- Be a Michigan resident.
- Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.
- For renewal, meet institution's satisfactory academic progress (SAP) policy.
- Be registered with the Selective Service, if applicable.

U.S. Military Academies are not eligible for consideration.

### For More Information

Visit [www.michigan.gov/osg](http://www.michigan.gov/osg). Contact the Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program, Office of Scholarships and Grants, toll free at 1-888-4-GRANTS (1-888-447-2687) or e-mail [osg@michigan.gov](mailto:osg@michigan.gov).

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\*Appeals of scholarship enrollment requirements may be based on the following: You have medical problems that prevent you from being able to attend college; you are caring for your parent(s) due to illness that prevents you from being able to attend college; you need to be employed full time to provide an income to meet education costs; or your program of study requires co-op employment, and during that employment period, your course load cannot be full time. Appeal letter must include documentation and should be mailed to: **Office of Scholarships and Grants**, P.O. Box 30462, Lansing, MI 48909.